

Martha and David Burford

David and Martha Burford moved to Lexington in 2018 for Martha to accept the call as Grace's Minister of Music. When Fr. James reached out to Martha, "No," was the Burfords' response, but as they prayed, meeting people of the parish and community, they realized the Holy Spirit was singing "Get you to Grace!" David generously agreed and packed up his guitars and their herd of dachshunds. Happily, the move brought him back to his "home mountains," Amherst, after trotting the globe as an engineer based in France and California.

Martha grew up in a family that talked about the impact of phrases such as "love thy neighbor as thyself," "who is my neighbor," and "[God] blessed us with memory, reason, and skill." As an infant, Martha was baptized at All Souls Episcopal Church, Morristown, TN, on Candlemas. Perhaps that began her love for the Song of Simeon. Throughout her youth, Martha was formed by her dad's vocation as an Episcopal priest with a passion for social justice and music, her mom's vocation as an organist, summers at Kanuga, and amazing mentors such as Ray Glover, Mary Anthony+, +Anne Hodges-Copple, and +Susan Goff.

Drawn to Grace by Fr. James's earnest belief in the goodness of people at Grace, Martha and David experience that goodness daily. Martha gives thanks for how people at Grace engage in missional worship and worshipful mission, how they seek to love neighbors and sing new songs of celebration and unity. Sacred Ground was momentous! The choir and worship committee beautifully and faithfully uplift the liturgies. Pastoral care happens in the deepest and often quietest of ways. Tuck+ is leading faithful reckoning with questions of what it means to become beloved community. And, Grace's folk are even willing to climb into big, thorny, yucky ditches to pick up trash across Rockbridge.

Yes, the new organ and chancel space are a source of joy because they are splendid, but more because they serve as venues for Walking the Way of Love. The walls of Grace are filled with generations of saints' songs, and those songs continue to fuel us to serve the God who loves us more than we can fathom. She and David are grateful for to be on the journey with Grace.